



Statistical Inference: The Big Picture

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(Submitted on 15 Jun 2011 (v1), last revised 22 Jun 2011 (this version, v2))

Statistics has moved beyond the frequentist-Bayesian controversies of the past. Where does this leave our ability to interpret results? I suggest that a philosophy compatible with statistical practice, labeled here statistical pragmatism, serves as a foundation for inference. Statistical pragmatism is inclusive and emphasizes the assumptions that connect statistical models with observed data. I argue that introductory courses often mischaracterize the process of statistical inference and I propose an alternative "big picture" depiction.

Comments: Published in at [this http URL](#) the Statistical Science ([this http URL](#)) by the Institute of Mathematical Statistics ([this http URL](#))

Subjects: **Other Statistics (stat.OT)**; Methodology (stat.ME)

Journal reference: Statistical Science 2011, Vol. 26, No. 1, 1-9

DOI: [10.1214/10-STS337](#)

Report number: IMS-STS-STS337

Cite as: [arXiv:1106.2895 \[stat.OT\]](#)

(or [arXiv:1106.2895v2 \[stat.OT\]](#) for this version)

Submission history

From: Robert E. Kass [[view email](#)]

[v1] Wed, 15 Jun 2011 07:47:09 GMT (202kb)

[v2] Wed, 22 Jun 2011 09:07:34 GMT (203kb)

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